

Making the most of what we have got: RADAR and annual research planning

Nicola Siminson

Institutional Repository & Records Manager

The Glasgow School of Art

Repository Fringe,
Monday 1st August 2016

Overview of RADAR: <http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/>

Study	Life	Research	Visit GSA	About GSA	Support GSA
RADAR	WELCOME TO RADAR →	<p>RADAR is the Glasgow School of Art's research repository, providing a digital archive of research and enterprise output produced by Glasgow School of Art staff and postgraduate students. RADAR (which stands for Research Art Design Architecture Repository) makes information publically available about a wide range of research outputs, from books and journal articles to exhibitions and artefacts. Full text is available where possible, and some additional content is available on request.</p> <p>RADAR also has a blog that can be followed: here</p>			
Browse					
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Help & Contact Information					
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GSA User Menu					
Nicola Jane Siminson					
Homepage					
Manage Outputs					
Manage records					
Saved searches					
Review					
Admin					
Reports					
REF2014					



Over the Counter Culture
Sinclair, Ross (2014) *Over the Counter Culture*. [Show/Exhibition]



Latest items

Gunn, Vicky
(2010)
What's Topical/Emergent in Research-Teaching Linkages.
Discussion Paper. Quality Assurance Agency (Scotland), Glasgow, UK.
Item not available from this repository.

Gunn, Vicky
(2010)
Enhancing Research-Teaching Linkages as a Way to Improve the Development of Employability Attributes.
Discussion Paper. Quality Assurance Agency (Scotland), Glasgow, UK.
Item not available from this repository.

[More..](#)

GSA

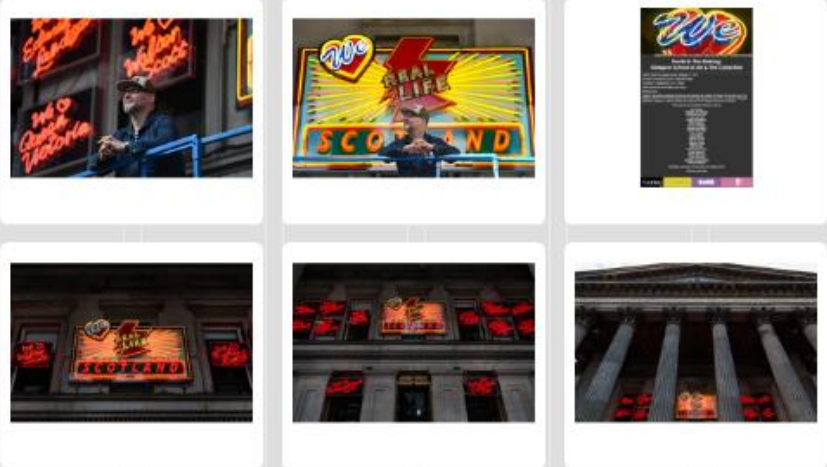
search RADAR

Life **Research** Visit GSA About GSA Support GSA

OUTPUT DETAILS

'We Love Real Life Scotland'
Sinclair, Ross (2016) *'We Love Real Life Scotland'*. [Show/Exhibition]

Images | Details | Profiles



<http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/4128/>

OUTPUT DETAILS

'We Love Real Life Scotland'

Sinclair, Ross (2016) 'We Love Real Life Scotland'. [Show/Exhibition]

[Images](#) | [Details](#) | [Profiles](#)

Creators/Authors: Sinclair, Ross

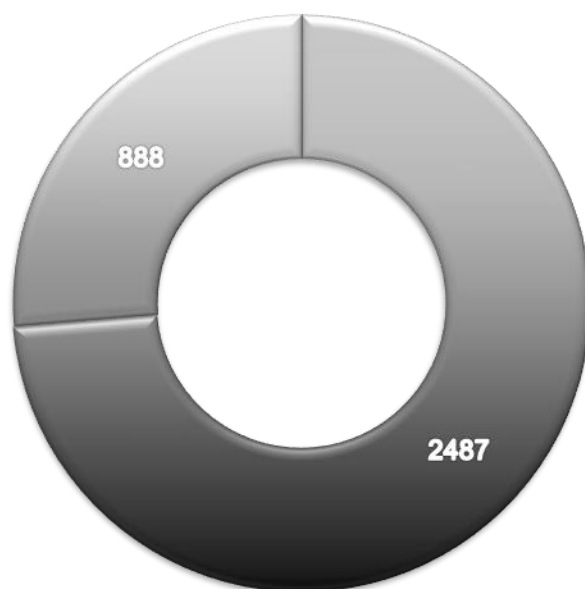
Abstract:

We Love Real Life Scotland, is a Large scale neon installation on 18th Century façade of the Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow for 6 months over 2015/16. Part of exhibition 'Devils in the Making', Glasgow School of Art and the Collection

Over the past 300 years the national image and identity of Scotland has been articulated, defined and invented by writers, poets and artists. This dates back at least as far as 1761 and James Macpherson's invention of his epic Ossian/Fingal poetic ruse and is woven through the incredible life and poetical works of Robert Burns, our 'national bard'. Just a few years after Burns death Walter Scott invents historical fiction (for the first time featuring 'Real' characters and historical events from Scottish history, manipulated to the author's own narrative ends). In some quarters, Scott is chiefly remembered for orchestrating the pageant/charade of the visit of George 4th to Edinburgh in 1822, (the first visit of a reigning 'monarch' to Scotland for almost 200 years). To celebrate, the kilt is no longer proscribed and this kick-starts a renaissance of all manner of tartanry and Scotchness we easily recognise today with a quick shoofy up High St in the capital. Coming riding along in a extravagant fashion is Edwin Landseer, making visual in layers of thick oil paint Queen Victoria's love of the highlands in a sentimental smorgasbord of popular imagery leaving us snapshots of Balmorality and the eerie stillness of the mountains and glens, all conveniently and systematically depopulated during the Highland Clearances, when Napoleonic wars in Europe demanded higher rents and returns for the owners of the massive estates of the Highlands. Instead Landseer repopulates these lands with images of the nobility huntin' shootin' and fishin' and conjures up from the brigadoonish mists of time his Monarch of the Glen, which in turn becomes embedded as a pseudo national symbol of Scotland. In one sense a celebration of political and social class war against the poor. Confusing eh? In the early 20th century this becomes even more complicated with Harry Lauder and Will Fyffe becoming international superstars trading on a now familiar image of the drouthy scot, tight with his purse strings but always up for a sentimental song and the wiggle waggle of the kilt. Harry Lauder is the first solo artist to sell a million records. Don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting I'm above all this, I feel deeply affected by many of these images and ideas...but why? It suggests a state of national cognitive dissonance.

This is the conversation into which the artwork We Love Real Life Scotland enters. It's a celebration, a commiseration, a joy, a cringe and all at the same time. The beating heart of the work is the large central panel of flashing neon, inspired in parts by Glaswegian landmarks of the old Iron Bridge. I used to see, as a child, high on top of the city skyline

Proportion of OA outputs in RADAR @ 30.6.16



- Number of non-OA outputs in RADAR
- Number of OA outputs in RADAR

Background to GSA's Annual Research Plans

- The need for the Annual Research Plan (ARP) arose in part from the outcome of the REF 2014 assessment
 - GSA was placed 5th out of 84 for Art and Design in UK
 - However, GSA facing reduced research income due to changes at Scottish Funding Council (SFC)
- Peer-reviewed ARPs will enable research time to be allocated more effectively, alongside a new research mentoring scheme, with a view to maximising the number of high quality submissions to the next REF
- RADAR as a home for the ARP template:
 - IR's key role in supporting the GSA's REF 2014 submission
 - Researchers already using RADAR – so an excellent opportunity to further embed the IR in researcher workflows

ARP specification

- In September 2015, EPrints was commissioned to build the ARP template in RADAR, based on a Microsoft Word document
 - ARP should only be accessible within RADAR by the researcher (and RADAR administrators)
 - facility for repository administrators to access and export a separate PDF copy of each ARP for the peer reviewers, on a set date
 - ARPs must link with MEPrints, to enable profile information to be pulled through to the ARP
 - Archiving solutions required

Development process

- ARP as part of MePrints installation - or separate ARP development?
- GSA comms and approval processes around Activity Planning (and the ARP) running in parallel
- Iterative testing via a test server (December 2015 onwards)
 - creation of a “snagging list”
- January 2016: ARP goes live in RADAR
- April 2016 onwards: ARPs are exported for peer review

The finished ARP template in RADAR – part 1

EDIT

Detail → Research → Submit

CANCEL SAVE AND RETURN NEXT →

★

★ **Year:** Year of the Research Plan
-

★ **Name:** Nicola Jane Sir

★ **Position:** Institutional Repository and Records Manager

★ **School:** Digital Design Studio
Exhibitions
Forum for Critical Inquiry
Learning Resources
Mackintosh School of Architecture
Mackintosh School of Architecture: Glasgow Urban Lab (GUL)
Mackintosh School of Architecture: Mackintosh Environmental Architecture Research Unit (MEARU)
Research & Graduate School (encompassing Directorate)
School of Design
School of Design: Centre for Design Innovation (including Forres)

★ **FTE:**

Research centre or unit (if applicable):

CANCEL SAVE AND RETURN NEXT →

The ARP template – part 2

EDIT

Detail → Research → Submit

← PREVIOUS
CANCEL
SAVE AND RETURN
NEXT →

★

★ **Research profile, focus and expertise:**

Please provide up to 500 words describing your research track record, suitable for publication on the GSA Website. Include

- i) areas of interest and relevant GSA strategic theme(s); (Themes: Architecture, Urbanism and the Public Sphere (APS); Design Innovation (DI); Digital Visualisation (DV); Education in Art, Design and Architecture (EADA); Contemporary Art and Curating (CAC); Health and Wellbeing (HW); Material Culture (MC); Sustainability (SUS).)
- ii) plans for next 12 months.

Nicola Siminson is the Institutional Repository and Records Manager at the Glasgow School of Art. She is responsible for the management of RADAR, the GSA research repository.

Research Projects: Please provide up to 500 words describing each of your research projects.

- Note any funded projects
- Any other research projects undertaken
- Research projects planned
- Speculative research and preparation (including background work, networking etc.)

1. **Project Title**

Brief Description

Status UNSPECIFIED ▼

Time Required

2. **Project Title**

Outputs

Completed Outputs:

- From the outputs you have listed in RADAR from 1st January 2014 onwards, please select those that you might consider as REF outputs of 3 to 4* quality (world leading or internationally excellent)
- Self-reflection: consider each output and give a brief justification (in no more than 300 words) or of why you consider the work to be 3 or 4* Quality
- Note: GSA Peer Review focuses on quality not quantity and seeks to ensure research time is directed towards those who have the most potential to contribute to GSA's 2020 REF submission
- Note: The RADAR ID is a four digit number and can be found in the 'Details' tab of your deposited output, listed as Output ID

1.	<div>RADAR ID <input type="text"/></div> <div>Title <input type="text"/></div> <div>Description and justification as a 3 or 4* REF output <input type="text"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
2.	<div>RADAR ID <input type="text"/></div> <div>Title <input type="text"/></div> <div>Description and justification as a 3 or 4* REF output <input type="text"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div>

[MORE INPUT ROWS](#)

Planned Outputs:

Please provide up to 300 words describing each of your planned outputs.

- Please note any planned outputs, based on research that has already been completed, is well underway or outputs that have been commissioned, or for which you have contracts. This includes publishing contracts, accepted conference proceedings, exhibitions, commissioned practice etc.
- Give a description of the output plus an indication of its status with respect to being purely speculative, having a contract, being commissioned, having a submitted abstract etc.

1.	<div>Title <input type="text"/></div> <div>Expected Publication Date: Year: <input type="text"/> Month: <input type="text"/> Day: <input type="text"/></div> <div>Time Required <input type="text"/></div> <div>Brief Description <input type="text"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div>
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The ARP template – part 3

EDIT

Detail → Research → Submit

← PREVIOUS CANCEL SAVE AND RETURN

Submit your ARP

Please submit your completed ARP by clicking on the box below, then select the green “SAVE AND RETURN” button.

Please note that submitting your ARP will create an archived version of your ARP, which will no longer be available for you to edit.

WARNING: If you still wish to edit your ARP, please ensure the box below is NOT ticked.

☐

← PREVIOUS CANCEL SAVE AND RETURN

Preview and export

ANNUAL RESEARCH PLAN - NICOLA JANE SIMINSON 2022/23	
http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/id/arp_plan/348	
USE AS TEMPLATE EDIT DESTROY	
Details	Export
Detail EDIT	
Name:	Nicola Jane Siminson
Year:	2022/23
Position:	Institutional Repository and Records Manager
School:	Digital Design Studio
FTE:	1
Unspecified fields:	Research centre or unit (if applicable)
Research EDIT	
Research profile, focus and expertise:	Nicola Siminson is the Institutional Repository and Records Manager at the Glasgow School of Art. She is responsible for the management of RADAR, the GSA research repository.
Unspecified fields:	Research Projects, Completed Outputs, Planned Outputs, Current PhD students, Research Environment, Impact to date, Planned impact activity, 5 year plans
Submit EDIT	
Submit your ARP:	No
Other defined fields	
Plan ID:	348

Example exported ARP

Year: 2015/16

Name: Dawn Pike

Position: Research Information Co-ordinator

School: Research & Graduate School (encompassing Directorate)

FTE: 0.8

**Research
profile, focus
and expertise:**

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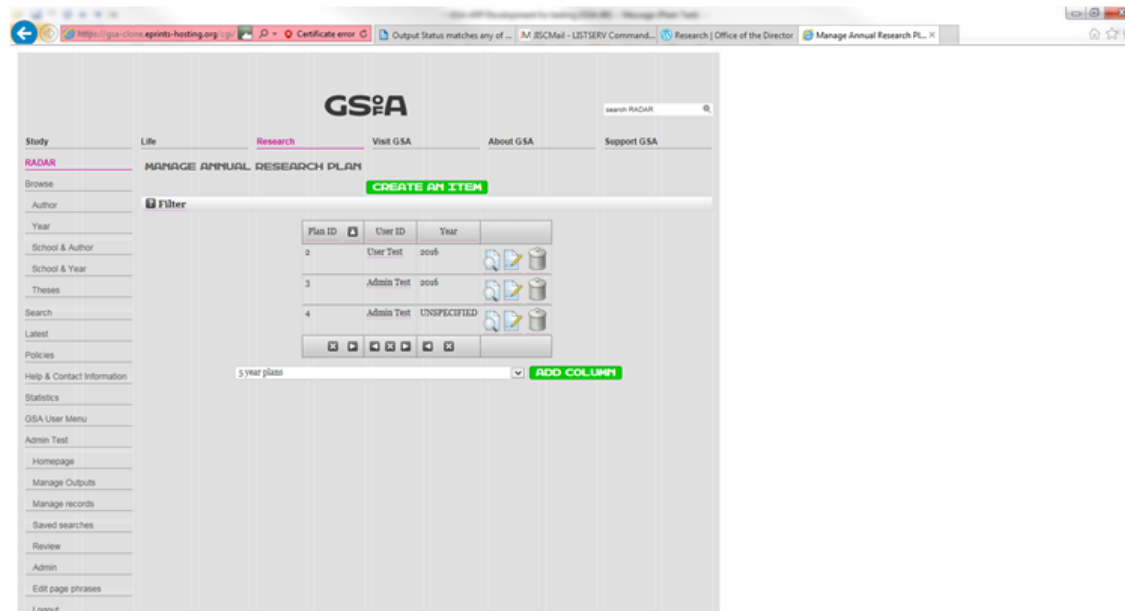
**Research
Projects:**

Project Title	Brief Description	Status	Time Required
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The “snagging list”

GSA ARP Development for testing [GSA-99]

Feedback / snagging list from GSA: **updated Friday 4th March 2016**



Screenshot1: https://gsa-clone.eprints-hosting.org/cgi/users/home?screen=Listing&dataset=arp_plan

1. **GSA:** Can we please re-name the top green button in Screenshot1 from “CREATE AN ITEM” to “CREATE A PLAN”, or even better (if space allows) “CREATE A RESEARCH PLAN”? **DONE**
2. **Eprints:** There are two types of text input fields eprints supports: short text and long text. Long text field takes more space and allows multi-paragraph of text; short text field will only accept maximum 255 characters. We have made some assumptions on the text length based on the field name. You will note that many fields are overflowing your branding template, unfortunately there is not a great deal we can do to improve this without impacting usability due to the structure of the fields.

GSA: I have indicated below where we think a text input field needs changing from short text to long text.

I do think the overflowing fields need some attention, if what we are talking about is the following example, in Screenshot 2, where all the “Research Projects” headings

Promoting the ARPs

- produced a step by step guide
- arranged and ran ARP workshops (both tailored and generic)
 - encourage researchers to keep their outputs and profile information up to date
 - address any concerns with using the repository
- one to one meetings
 - flexibility = good outcome
- linked in with existing channels to promote ARPs
 - “SKI Tuesday”; Departmental meetings

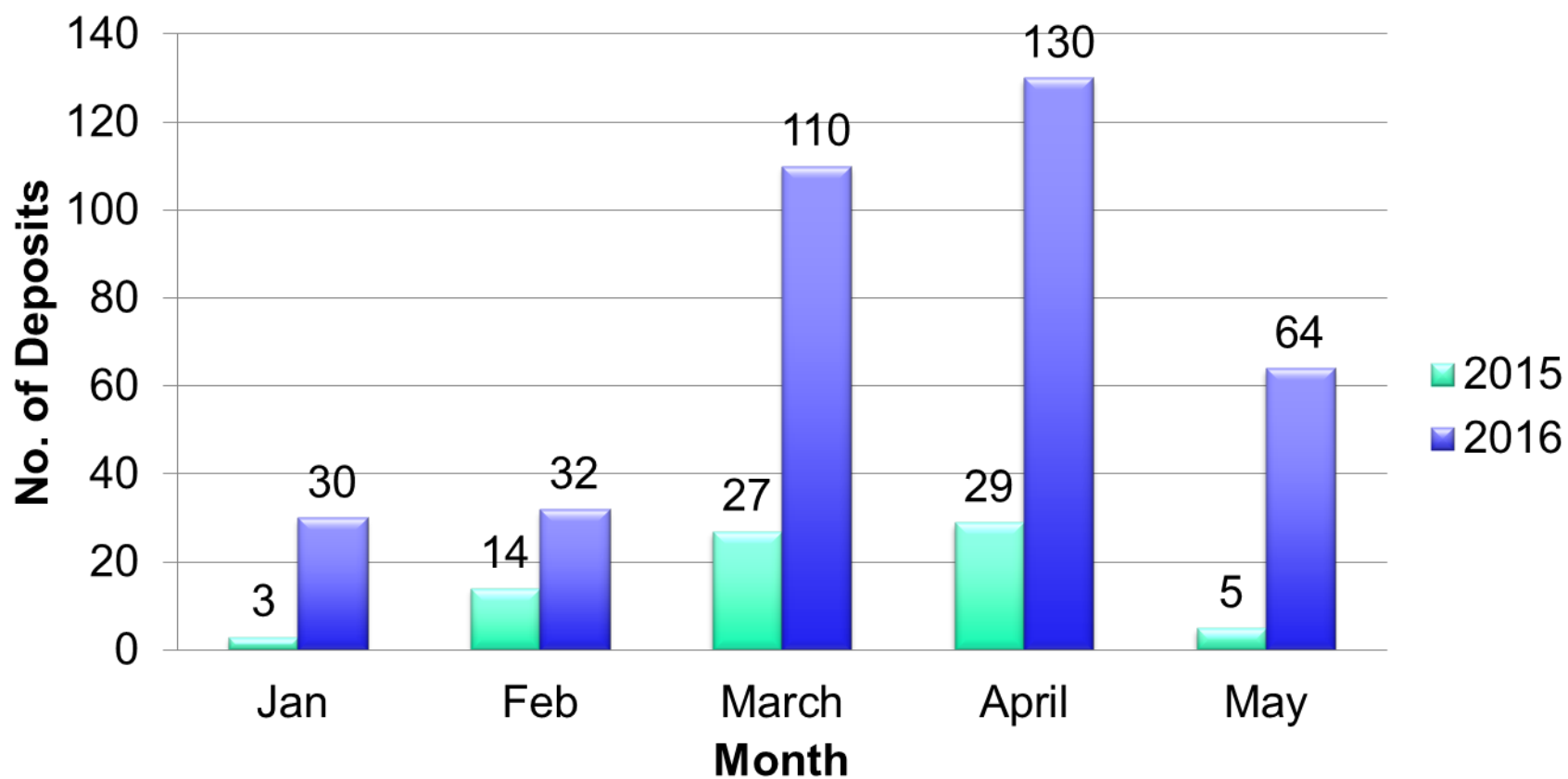
Lessons learned

- timing of user testing?
- visual presentation of exported ARP PDFs
- MePrints link to ARP and auto-population of “Research Profile” proved confusing
- ‘Submit’ button required
- “learning by doing”...
- But - the initial implementation of the ARP in RADAR has provided the GSA with a functioning tool that supports staff and the institution in their wider activity planning efforts

Positive outcomes

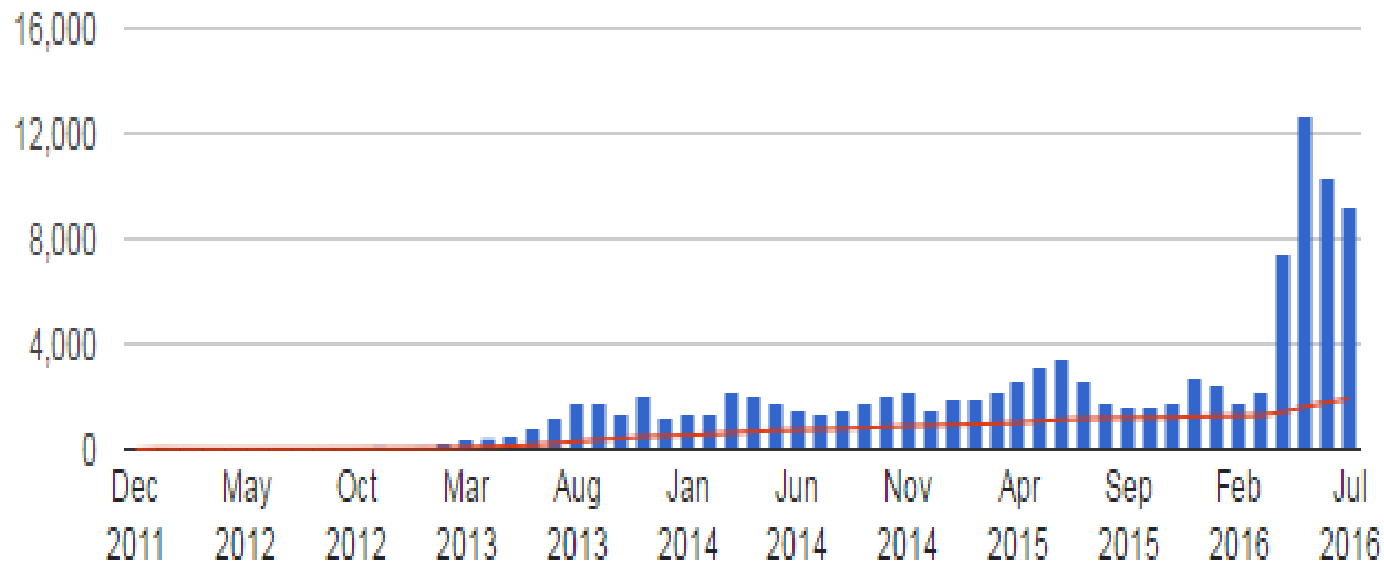
- “RADAR is for life, not just for REF” !
 - RADAR is proving its worth, both to researchers and to Research Office colleagues
- Benefits for the RADAR team
 - excellent opportunity to interact with researchers, build relationships and emphasise ongoing support
 - ARP development = new responsibilities and learning opportunities
- ARPs have prompted researchers to keep their outputs up to date
 - Spike in deposits – April 2016 has 4 times as many deposits compared to April 2015
- Spike in downloads?!

Spike in RADAR Deposits



Spike in downloads?

Downloads



Conclusions

- ARP process (and first iteration) now complete, and considered successful
 - no small degree of cultural change for the GSA and its researchers!
- Unanticipated benefits of both a massive injection of content into RADAR (including OA), and of increased visibility and downloads
- New role (and development opportunity) for RADAR and its staff; new way of supporting individuals, enhancing processes, and contributing to institutional goals
- ARP has turned out to be an opportunity to take wider repository development and user engagement forward
 - RADAR is now further embedded with researchers, and in the institutional infrastructure

Useful information

- RADAR: <http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/>
- RADAR blog:
<https://gsaradar.wordpress.com/>
- Kultur Project: <http://kultur.eprints.org/>
- Contact details: n.siminson@gsa.ac.uk